

Hit Netflix show ‘Love is Blind’ now casting in SC

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The Herald/TNS

Looking to trade in the slow-paced Southern charm for a shot at finding reality TV speed true love — all without ever seeing your future fiancé?

The hit Netflix series “Love Is Blind” is now officially casting singles in Charleston, one of five new cities announced by producers as they search for the next group of hopeful romantics.

Other cities on the hunt for the next season’s cast include Philadelphia, Aus-

tin, St. Louis and New Orleans.

“Love is Blind” casting team, Kinetic Content, announced the search on July 28, dropping the news via Instagram. The call invites singles from the South Carolina Lowcountry to apply for what they deem “the ultimate leap of faith.” View this post on Instagram A post shared by Kinetic Content Casting (@kineticcontentcasting) How do I apply to be on the show?

Applicants are asked to dig deep; after all, the goal is to propose to someone

you’ve never even seen.

The online application includes a whopping 72 questions, ranging from basic hobbies to emotional deep dives like “Why did your last relationship end?” and “What’s the most difficult situation you’ve had to overcome?”

Those who apply will also need to provide three references, submit a 15-second video, upload their best face and body photos and include all their social media handles.

Since this is reality TV, in addition to the ques-

tionnaire, videos and references, there’s a release to sign, too. Out of the thousands of applications, roughly 30 contestants are selected to participate each season.

The upcoming segment, Season 9, which is set to be filmed in Denver, will continue that journey starting Oct. 1. What is “Love is Blind” about?

For those who may be unfamiliar, “Love Is Blind” brings together singles from the same city who date without ever seeing each other — literally.

Participants communicate through walls in custom-built pods, forming emotional bonds and potentially getting engaged before ever laying eyes on their partner.

Once they pop the question and the other person says “yes,” they get to see each other for the first time. These pieces are crammed into about 10 days, all leading up to the altar, where they decide whether to say “I do” or walk away.

After that, the couple head off on a romantic honeymoon getaway, move

in together and navigate real-world pressures.

The show is hosted by Nick and Vanessa Lachey, both television and music personalities. “Love is Blind” is produced by the same team as Netflix’s “Perfect Match” and “The Ultimatum.”

“Love is Blind” has eight seasons in the United States and debuted in 2020. According to Tudum, Netflix’s official site, at least nine couples are still together.

For more information, the online application can be found here.

Restoration

From A1

“Very seldom I even try to put myself on a pedestal, but today you are looking at one of Bull Swamp’s first students who didn’t take a step backward at any time. I kept moving forward,” she said.

Carson continued, “I went to elementary school from there, and I want to high school from there. I went to college, graduated from college and got a few degrees and worked in education.”

“Everything was education, and it was geared back to the foundation that was given to me by the school teachers,” she said.

The three-room school housed grades 1-7 and was constructed as part of the Works Progress Administration, a New Deal employment and infrastructure program created by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

For the first phase, the church received a \$200,000 grant from the S.C. Department of Archives and History. It was able to provide a required \$50,000 match with the help of Midlands Gives, an initiative of the Central Carolina Community Foundation.

Along with the church’s various fundraisers and individual donations, Deacon Wilfred Pace, a member of the project’s board of directors, has said the church was also able to snag a \$10,000 grant from First Citizen Bank’s charitable foundation.

“It wasn’t an easy task, but it was one that we had to first have the vision of what we were trying to accomplish. In the scripture it tells us to make the vision plain so that others can take it and run with it,” Pace said during the program.

“This was a church school, but the crossroads of political and social change met right here at Bull Swamp, and you’re going to see some of that positive change that took place,” he said.

A candle was lit in memory of a few of the project’s contributors, including Rogers Houser, former District 7 Orangeburg County Councilman Willie B. Owens, and the Rev. Dorothy Pimble Waymer.

The school’s original wooden floors have been preserved, and the first phase project also includes a glass covering over the baptism pool located in the school and a historical display of the church’s growth in that area.

“We have to see where our past has brought us and reflect on it and be proud of it and show that we have a rich history of pulling up and working and building things for the future,” Pace said.

“That’s what Roosevelt did under the WPA,” he said, noting that the project was a labor of love.

The second phase will include the creation of a commercial kitchen, food pantry and reception hall. A third phase will include development of the school’s great lawn, where former students played, into an environmentally friendly area to hold outdoor activities.

As the first phase was being completed, Pace said two queen bees, along with 150,000 other bees, were removed from one of the old school’s walls. Some of the 150 lbs. of honey that were collected is on display in the restored school, while the bees were transported to a honey farm in Barnwell County.

Along with Carson, Deacon Henry Huggins, Lurlene Mack Higgett, Samuel Cook, Wilma Fersner Green, Ruth Mack Bowman and Deacon Herbert Mack were among the school’s other former students who attended the dedication program.

“All in all, I enjoyed it. I was blessed with it, I got benefits from it, and I’m glad to be here



DIONNE GLEATON PHOTOS, T&D

The old Bull Swamp Colored School, which opened in 1936, has been restored and will be transformed into a community center. A ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony was held July 27 at Bull Swamp Baptist Church in Orangeburg to celebrate completion of the first phase of the three-phase project.



Members of the Bull Swamp Colored School Preservation and Community Center Project were among those who turned out July 27 for a dedication and ribbon cutting in celebration the restoration of the old Bull Swamp School. The school will also be transformed into a community center.



Deacon Wilfred Pace, a member of the Bull Swamp Colored School and Community Center project’s board of directors, shares a laugh with Elizabeth Johnson of the S.C. Department of Archives and History during a reception celebrating the restoration of the old Bull Swamp Colored School. The three-phase project’s second phase will include the creation of a commercial kitchen, food pantry and reception hall.

just to add to that history of knowledge. I don’t regret any of it. I see myself as being blessed,” Cook said.

Mack said, “The school was connected closely with the church. You had to know about a Bible verse. If you didn’t know it, you had to learn it. Then we began to learn how to read and write.”

“We learned the Golden Rule. We learned what it was to love each other,” he said.

Elizabeth Johnson of the S.C. Department of Archives and History thanked the church for allowing her to be a part of their “historic milestone” and for being “good and careful stewards of this important historic place.”

“We work with groups like y’all’s to help save historic places so that we can connect to those who came before us, help us learn

from their stories, preserve their stories, appreciate their stories and pass them along to future generations....” Johnson said.

She continued, “It’s really a delight to be here and see how our grants have assisted this specific project. In 2020, we awarded a preservation planning grant to help develop the plans for the school and then in 2023, the Bull Swamp School Project was one of only five out of 40 applications we got that was selected in the first round of the historic preservation state grant fund.”

She said the State Historic Preservation Office also works closely with the S.C. African-American Heritage Commission, of which Pace is also a member. SCAAHC President Vivian Glover of Orangeburg was also present at the program.

“The successful completion of phase of the Bull Swamp Colored School Preservation and Community Center Project stands as a beacon of pride and inspiration for African American communities across Orangeburg County,” Glover later said.

“Led by Bull Swamp Baptist Church, this milestone celebrates a profound legacy—honoring the visionaries, educators, and determined foot soldiers who transformed lives through the power of education,” she said.

Glover continued, “Their unwavering commitment laid the foundation for progress, and this project ensures their sacrifices and triumphs are never forgotten.”

As part of its history, the former Orangeburg School District Five board trustees deeded the old school back to Bull Swamp Baptist Church.

Dr. Emma Caldwell Dykes, director of the Bull Swamp Colored School and Community Center Project, said, “They asked that we make it a place of service to the rural community where the school is located.”

“So we did our part. It took us a while to do it, but we have come this far by faith, and we’ve worked hard to get to where we are right now,” she said, noting that there are plans to put computers in what will be the community center.

“I already have a benefactor who says that they’re going to give us computers to put in our center.... A lot of folks out in this area may not have them, or they may not have good service,” Dykes said.

Al Jenkins, regional director for U.S. Sen. Tim Scott’s office, read a letter of congratulations from Scott. He also presented Pace and other project members with a U.S. flag to be flown at the school.

Exterior Building Services LLC of North Charleston was the general contractor for the project. Innova Architect LLC of Charleston was the architect.

During the dedication program, David Hill, owner of Innova Architecture, said, “I heard somebody talking about phase two and phase three. That’s very exciting. I think it’s exciting also that we’re recognizing phase one.”

“You’ve done a great job in phase one. I’m very, very proud, and I’m proud to hopefully continue to work with you,” he said.

District 7 Orangeburg County Councilwoman Latisha Walker and Orangeburg Mayor Michael C. Butler were also on hand to offer greetings at the program.

“This is a milestone. It serves a model of what can be accomplished with vision and commitment and determination and is a testament to the power of collective efforts to enhance the community,” Butler said.

Anti-hate

From A1

The ordinance was proposed by Councilwoman Latisha Walker.

Orangeburg County native Phillip Ford expressed his support for the ordinance. He was representing The Alliance for Full Acceptance, a statewide LGBTQ+ organization.

“I was born right here in Orangeburg County,” Ford said. “This is where I learned the values of hard work, faith and community values and values that say we look out for one another.”

“But like too many other communities, I also learned what it feels like to be targeted for who you are,” Ford continued. “I have faced threats, slurs, intimidations simply for living openly as a gay man in Orangeburg.”

Ford said research and experience show such ordinances “send a powerful message.”

“Hate has no place in Orangeburg County,” Ford said. “Orangeburg has a proud history of standing on the front lines of justice. Passing this ordinance continues that legacy.”

Roads

From A1

These roads include:

- Buffalo Pond Road
- Cannon Bridge Road
- Deer Trail Road
- Middle Willow Road

Those four roads are included in an emergency repair contract that has been awarded.

“Work has started on Buffalo Pond Road and another site that was also included in Bamberg County (S-5-458 Indian Camp Road),” SCDOT Media Relations Manager Hannah Robinson said. “All repairs included in that contract are expected to be completed in spring of 2026.”

Portions of Oakmont Drive and Shillings Bridge Road are also still closed to traffic.

Oakmont Drive and Shillings Bridge Road are still in preliminary engineering stages, according to Robinson.

A timeline for completion is not immediately available.

Dash

From A1

organization established on the principle that our communities and the American system of justice are well served by judicial officers who invest in their professional education and perspective.

“Our members are found in small and large communities across the nation, tirelessly serving those communities with fairness and insight. Education provided at our conferences is among the most well-rounded available — and in these times of budget constraints, it is highly cost effective.”

She said, “Judge Dash is a 21-year member of NJA and currently serves the membership as the South Carolina State Representative, a responsibility he’s carried for three years.

“He also serves on the Board of Trustees of the National Judges Education & Research Foundation, a partner organization of the NJA. Judge Dash is a sterling example of our profession and a valued member of the NJA.”